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THE

# CONDUCT

OF THE

Late and Present M----RY

WITH AN

## IMPARTIAL REVIEW

OF

Public Transactions fince the Refignation of the RIGHT HONOURABLE the EARL of ORFORD; and of the Causes that immediately effected the same.

To which is added,

REMARKS on the FARTHER REPORT of a certain COMMITTEE.

### In a LETTER to a FRIEND.

Tempus erit Turno magno cum optaverit emptum Intactum PALLANTA & cum Spolia ista Diemque Oderit. Virgil.

#### LONDON:

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SIR,

S I am entirely convinced of the Integrity of your Intentions, I will, as you defire, open myfelf without any manner of Reserve upon the Subject we talk'd of when I had

last the Happiness of your Company.

You know I enter'd very early in Life upon Public Business, and continued as long in it as I could continue with Honour; that is, as long as my Principles and Conscience would suffer me. I have since amused myself as a Spectator of the Scenes in which I used to act; I have watch'd the Agents by which they were shifted, and I have attended so nearly to the Propriety of Characters and Conduct in all the political Farces that were acted during the late long Administration, that I now see the winding-up of the whole with

of steams.

as much Coolness and Indifference as others gaze upon it with Surprize and Astonishment.

This Character may without Vanity, I think, entitle me to offer my Advice to you and your Friends upon the short Question you put to me the other Night. I mean, "Whether the Causes of the late Opposition "now cease to exist?"

For this Purpose, I shall not enter into any long Review of the Principles and Conduct of the late Opposition. Those Points have been so fully discussed in many Papers and Pamphlets, publish'd during the late Administration, that it is sufficient for me to hint, that in fact, the Conduct of the new Administration has, during the short Time they have been in play, been such as must call for all the Vigilance of your Jealousy. The Jealousy of Power in a Man who would serve his Country honestly and successfully is always laudable; and, I speak it with a melancholly Concern, at the present Juncture it appears to be necessary.

In order to prove this I shall advance only such Facts as are consistent with your own Knowledge, but shall draw Consequences from these Facts which may not fall so immediately under the Observation of one who

has been fo lately acquainted with public Business as yourself.

The late Opposition was composed of two Sets of Men, knavishly and foolishly distinguish'd by the Names of Old Whigs and Tories; but so far as I can understand, from the Actions and Conversations of Both, the only Difference confisted in the former laying down as a Maxim, That in order to destroy the late Minister, whom they look'd upon as a very bad one, it was necessary indiscriminately to oppose all his Views and Measures, and never to divide among themselves upon any Measure that could distress him: This is a Maxim if not firitly yet politically just.

The other Gentlemen, who go under the Name of Tories, stuck to the Strict Justice of Conduct; but it happen'd, fortunately for both, the Measures of the late Administration were so blameable, that few or no Instances happen'd during the long Term of twenty Years, in which every Act of Opposition was not only politically but firictly just.

The first Instance in which these two Characters feem'd to be distinct, was in the Case of the famous Motion. I shall not enter into the Dispute, whether the last mention'd Class of Gentlemen were or were not strictly

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justifiable

justificable in their deserting the former, but I will venture to say, that the ill Success which that Question met with in the House begot a Security in the Minister which occafioned his Removal.

When the Writs were islued out for the present Parliament, very few People, I believe, were of any other Opinion but that the Minister would have a greater Majority in the fucceeding Parliament than he had in the one then just ended. But it happen'd unfortunately for him, that the War with Spain, and the great Drains of Treasure by the expensive Expeditions to America, had exhausted the Exchequer to fuch a Degree, that, I am credibly inform'd, there was not at the Time of the Commencement of the late Elections, a hundred thousand Pounds in the Treasury. But the fruitful Head of the Minister would have found the Want of Money easily supply'd, had it not been that he was deceiv'd in imagining, that the bad Success of the Motion was an Indication of the People's Affection to his own Administration; and of their Aversion to those who push'd it. This induced him to conclude, that while they were in the Humour they wou'd not only return all his Friends who fluck by him in the Motion, but turn out those

those who were most forward in its Favour. He was deceiv'd; the Nation indeed laugh'd at the two Parties who had, upon that Occasion, split; but this did not at all diminish their Aversion to his Person and Measures.

Another Mistake he fell into was that of imagining, that the Tories, as they are called, by leaving the Whigs, discover'd an Aversion both to the Company and the Principles of the Whigs. It is true, that the former did not much like the Manner in which that Question was introduced, nor the Person of the Man who made THE MOTION. Perhaps they were glad of an Opportunity to shew the Whigs how little Importance they were in the House, and what a ridiculous Figure they made in the Nation when they stood by themselves. But still the Tories never lost Sight of the Opposition, and their Behaviour upon that Occasion was, I believe, one Reason why they made a Point of bestirring themselves in the most effectual Manner in the following Elections.

The Election for Members in Westminster was the first Struggle which gave People Room to apprehend that the next Parliament would be more unfavourable than the former. But what did the Gentlemen who compose the present Ministry do upon that

Occasion? Why! tho' most of them were Inhabitants and Electors of Westminster them-felves, and many of them were upon the Spot, yet they not only gave no Assistance to the Gentlemen who managed the Opposition to the Court, but some of them gave their Interest against them. The Tories indeed bestirred themselves more; they gave all the Assistance they could against the old Members, who, for all that, must have carried the Election, and been still sitting in the House, had it not been for their own and their Returning-Officer's Blunders.

Soon after the Opposition of Westminster, Things began to look with a very ill Aspect upon the M——r; the Royal Presence withdrawing out of Great Britain was no very savourable Incident to him; and the Action at Carthagena, as we had it by our first Accounts, gave great Spirit to the Opposition, who distinguish'd themselves by their Attachment to Admiral Vernon: In short, several very untowardly Circumstances for him happen'd to fall out during the very Crisis of the general Election.

But the Returns which effected the great Revolution that lately happen'd, were those from Scotland and Cornwall. From the first Place, the Country-Party, never almost fince reckon'd upon twenty of Majority.

The Address upon the Speech from the Throne was, however, in so general Terms that perhaps they began to think, that the M — r did not care to venture a Division till he had purged the House upon the controverted Elections. The first of these was that of B--y; and from the Earnestness which the Party behaved with in that Affair, with the wide Stretches which were made in it, it was very eafy to perceive what Justice was to be expected in the Determination of those Elections that remained to be controverted, if the Majority for the Court continu'd. However, as this Point was carried by but a very inconfiderable Number, it remain'd still a Doubt in what Manner Things might turn out in the main. The next Trial which which the Parties made of their Strength, was in the Affair of chusing a C-n of the C—tee of E—ns. But here the M -r committed a fatal Blunder for himself. For in that ticklish Situation of Affairs, he ought to have stuck as much as possible to personal Merit; instead of that, he had nothing in view but political. By this I mean, he ought to have fet up a Man, who, by the Confideration of his perfonal Merit with the other Party, might have determin'd a few among them to have joined him; this is what is always found in Parliament, where two or three, or more, will, from a personal Regard to a Man's Person, leave his own Party, or at least be neutral in a Motion. But the M——r acted in a quite different Manner; for he put up one of the most unpopular Men in his whole Party against one of the most unexceptionable and best beloved in the other. Therefore the Question was carried against him merely through personal Considerations, the Majority upon the whole being but four.

This was an irretrievable Blow for him. When Men are connected together merely by Motives of Interest, every Man amongst them, who knows his own bad Intentions, looks upon his Neighbour as watching every

Moment

Moment to take Advantage of him, and to make the best Bargain he can for himself with the other Party; so that Success is the only Principle of their Union. The M——r however had Address enough to keep them pretty firmly united, but was not able as usual to make any Converts, nor to prevent them from flagging a little both in Zeal and Attendance.

This was evident in the Question upon the Merits of the Westminster Election, which was the next, and indeed the decisive Meafure, that gave a Turn to the State of his Affairs. It was a Question purely political on the Side of the Opposition; by which I mean, that very few or no personal Considerations enter'd into it that could influence the Decision of it in favour of the Petitioners: These were Men of the middling Rank of Life, and destitute of all Support and Countenance from those who were in any Branch of the Civil Magistracy of the City. As to their Candidates, their Merits in a public Sphere were yet untry'd, and confequently their personal Interest to influence so decifive a Vote could not be very confiderable. On the other hand, one of the fitting Members had had great Opportunities by long Experience in Buliness, by long Possession of Power,

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The fair Merits of the Question were indeed strongly against the sitting Members; but what must these have availed had the Numbers been for them? A Refolution was taken at a certain Board, and had been ratified by a kind of folemn Sanction, that no Quarter should be given in Elections. This was the Time for putting this Doctrine in practice. The Public is sufficiently acquainted with the Manner in which that Election had been carried on, therefore I shall take no other Notice of the Reasons against it than by observing, that strong and unaswerable as they were, the then M-r declar'd, that fince ever he had the Honour of fitting in that House he had never known one Instance in which the Merits of any Election had been so clearly proved in favour of the fitting Members.

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The Question however went against him by the same Majority as before in the C—n of E—ns, and a thundering Set of Resolutions were agreed to against the Returning-Officer, who was indeed guilty and punished, but not near so much as they who, by sending for the military Power, had set a Precedent for destroying the Constitution itself deserv'd.

As these Resolutions contain'd a Declaration of the greatest Breach which it is possible for this Constitution to suffer, it was generally imagin'd that the Offenders would be punish'd in the most signal Manner. It was more reasonable to expect this, as that House was known but a Session ago to proceed in the most inexorable Manner against one or two petty Offenders, for no other Crime than that of printing and publishing a \* Paper, containing a few Facts which were aggravated into Blasphemy against the Minister. Though the Truth of the Facts were as demonstrable as any Proposition in Euclid, yet a severe and unremitted Punishment was inflicted upon all who were found to have the least Concern in that Affair. Was it not therefore natural to think, when fo deep, fo permanent a Violation was

<sup>\*</sup> See Votes of the House.

offer'd to this Constitution, and declar'd to be so in the strongest Terms by Parliament, that some Example should have been made of the Authors, sufficient to deter others from so easy and so quick a Method of putting an End to the Freedom of all Elections.

But now the Scene began to be alter'd: Then it was easy to foresee that a Criss must foon follow. The Appearance of the Offenders at the Bar of the House was put off for a Month, and during that Time the Heads of the Then Opposition began to perceive very plainly that they had a Chance of foon becoming Ministers themselves, and therefore they confider'd how prudent it might be, for them to set such a Precedent as to punish any notorious Infraction on our Liberty, even after it was declar'd so by Parliament. Accordingly, when the Seffion was resum'd, and that Matter came to be under the Deliberation of the House, a very surprizing Coolness appear'd. None of those thundering Invectives against the Effects of Standing-Armies, and arbitrary Measures, supported by military Force, were now heard; when the Affair came to be difcuss'd, even the bold Sempronius became an Advocate for Lenity and Moderation, and the Men who were declar'd to be the Violators of their Country's Liberties, and the Subvertors of the Rights of Election, were difmiss'd with an ambiguous Reprimand.

Here, my dear Sir, let us pause, and enter into a little political Philosophy. Before this and some other late Events, I was apt to fuspect, that there was somewhat too severe in applying the general Topics drawn from Ambition, Avarice, Malice, and Envy, with a thousand other bad Qualities, to the Gentlemen in the Opposition. I had read and compared the Histories of all Oppositions in this or almost any other Country, and never found any Period in which Opposition was so justifiable as during the Time of the late Administration. As to the Motives of it, it was quite indifferent to me on what Principle they were founded, fince I was fure that the End was good. But how remarkably well has the most spiteful Predictions against those who have since come over from the Opposition to the Court, been fulfill'd? How watchful have they been ever fince the near Prospect of their coming into Power presented, of doing the least Thing that might check them from committing the very fame Crimes that were so justly charged upon their Predecessors? How careful have they been to retain in their Hands the same unconstitutional

tutional Power of doing ill? We shall see, we shall examine, whether they have or not; but we shall examine not with any Acrimony or Prepossession, but upon Facts undeniable, evident, and proclaim'd by themselves.

Let us therefore, if this shall be made appear, conclude, that the same Opposition does and ought still to subsist; let us consider that the same public Distress continues, and but a few of its Authors varied. But let us while we consider this be animated with a double Spirit of Detestation and Zeal against those who have thus under the Masque of Patriotism found Means to do more Hurt than their Predecessors could have effected had they been now in Power.

This is the profess'd End of my writing to you at present. You appeared to be under some Doubt as if upon the Removal of the late Minister the Opposition was at an end. I tell you, No. You have now greater, more alarming Reasons for opposing than you ever had. Some Changes have been indeed made, but they are Changes that have strengthen'd the Hand, given Weight to the Cause, and enforced the Measures of the late Minister: All the Grievances we felt under him are now continued, some of them with aggravated Indignities; and,

in short, those who have hitherto come into Power are but so many Accessions to the

Cause of Corruption and Slavery.

But to proceed in the regular Manner I had proposed. The late Minister was deceiv'd in imagining that it was in his Power to garble the House. He had not Time to form Cabals for that Purpose, nor had he Money to support them. The Virtue of the People had sent up a Set of new Members who were not so easily managed; these chose rather to espouse the Bad unknown, than that which they had known and experienced to be so for a long Tract of Years. And tho' the Dispute between the present Ministry and the old one was a Dispute which at the bottom was founded entirely upon Persons, yet it was carried on with the fame Animofit; as if it had been for an Alteration of Meafures and Conduct. This Animofity pass'd with the Well-meaning and Unexperienc'd, who form'd the Majority in the House, for Public Spirit, and met with a suitable Support. For even though the Choice of the C-n of the C-tee of E-ns went against the Minister, his Party was so fecure, whatever Alterations might be made as to a few Persons, that no Alteration could happen fo as give them any just Cause

to apprehend the Change wou'd be total, that they gave very little Attendance upon the C—tee of E—ns. This gave the Opposition an Opportunity of having all their strongest Cases of Elections fix'd for early Days; and it was not long before there was a visible and inevitable Prospect of a Majority against the Minister. The Affair of the C-m E-n was the Coup de Grace to all his Hopes, and upon a favourable Turn which that Affair took for the fitting Members, he thought fit to retire from the House with a Declaration that he never intended to return any more. It was apparent from the Effect which this Retreat had upon his Creatures; they did not imagine that his Time was so near, and from his own Behaviour, and that of his Opponents who have fince come into Posts, that the Affair had been previously concerted. What put this out of all Doubt was the Resolution enter'd into next Day of adjourning the P---t, which pass'd without the least Opposition.

It was very easy to perceive the Meaning of this Adjournment; and why it was so readily agreed to by the Heads of the one Party after having been proposed by those of the other. There was an Appearence of a Spirit of Liberty, and Independency grow-

ing strong within Doors. No Money, or at least but very little, had been granted; and should this Spirit have prevail'd, it was fear'd that it might become too unmanageable for the Heads of either Party to subdue, and thus the new M-ry might have succeeded only to an exhausted Exchequer and an empty Name. To prevent this, and to put the favourite screening Scheme in Execution, it was found necessary not to increase the Country-Party too much, by fuffering them to receive any new Additions of Strength, which, had the House continued to sit, they might have done by the Decision of four or five Elections then depending. The Adjournment prevented this; for the two Parties, before the Adjournment, were fo equally ballanced, that the throwing two or three into either Side would have cast the Scale; and it was rightly judg'd that a little Management during the Interval wou'd eafily bring those over. But this happen'd not quite so easy in Practice as in Theory. It was very plain, that all the Concessions made to the M-ry were wrested from them by Force, and that they were refolved not by give up one Inch of Ground that they could maintain. It was likewise evident, that a Division in the Country Party must for the same Reason be

be fatal both to the Well-meaning and the Defigning, and therefore nothing was fo much to be dreaded, especially as they have no manner of Reason to think, that any Misunderstanding that could ever arise might create a Division among the Friends of the late Ministry confiderable enough to swell into a Party: All this was prudently foreseen by the Court Interest, while those who call themselves in that of their Country were either amused with the Hopes of seeing a thorough Change of Measures as well as Men, or fo blinded by their own Ambition and bad Hearts, as to embrace, without Referve, the very first Advances that were made, and without any Terms but those of blind Compliance, succeeded to some of the Places and to all the Guilt of the late Ad-------tion.

Those first P——ns were plain Indications of the Spirit and Design with which they were made; the late Minister had observed, that there was one Person whose Unpopularity with the Gentlemen of the Opposition, during the last Session, had been the principal Means of that great Differtion which appear'd from the Interest of the Opposition; for when it fell to that Gentleman's Share to make the celebrated Motion, about remov-

ing him from his M--y's Person and Councils for ever; he therefore thought that the promoting fuch a Person would be the readiest Means of disuniting the Interest. On the other hand, that honourable Gentleman was so fond of the Power with which he was fo long tantaliz'd, that he catch'd at the Bait, and without remembring what the least Reflection would have suggested, had he ever had any other Aim but Power, I mean, that his Acceptance of any Part previous to any other Person of the Party must be attended with the very worst Consequences: I fay, without reflecting on this, or acting in concert with any one Man whom he ought to have regarded, he steps before the rest into the most invidious Places posses'd by the late M--r.

The Business by this was but half accomplish'd. Somewhat else must be done that might make the Tories irreconcilable Foes to the opposing Whigs, and thereby give an irrecoverable Blow to all Opposition, and another Person, the most obnoxious to all Parties and Degrees of any Man in the Kingdom, came in as proper to fill a Place of very considerable Power and Considence.

Such were the Fruits of this boafted Victory, in which the Vanquish'd, like the old

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Parthians, appear'd to have done more Execution in their Retreat than they could have done had they been Masters of the Field. For things were thereby placed on fo narrow a Bottom that the late M-r feem'd to have undergone no other Alteration of his. Fortunes than being eased of the Fatigues, while he enjoy'd all the Exercise of Power. Instead of his being obliged to make an immediate Surrender of all his Places and Papers, he was indulged in Time fufficient for making what Dispositions and Alterations he pleased in the several Offices wherein he presided or directed. 'And tho' the National Cry for Juffice was at that Time loud and untractable, yet he had Leisure sufficient for fecreting or destroying all the Evidences that could ferve to convict him in case of an Enquiry. In the mean time, every thing was quite unfettled; there was visibly a Plan of Operation concerted, from which no Deviations were to be made; and certain Distinctions imposed upon all those who were thought to be the Enemies of the late M---r and his Power, from Principle rather than Ambition.

After the two Posts I have already mention'd were fill'd up, the T——y came next to be consider'd. Here was a fair Field

to have enforced the boasted Maxims of the late Minority, by abolishing the ruinous Distinctions of Parties. But the World was furpriz'd when it was fill'd up by Persons, of whom a Majority had an immediate and personal Dependence upon one Man, who never was known in his Life publickly to oppose any one Scheme of the late M---r, and who upon this Occasion was put at the Head of the C--n. The greatest Care at the same time was taken, that no Person shou'd fit at that Board who by his Experience in Business shou'd be capable of detecting any Abuse or Misdemeanour. I know it was faid by the Friends of the Gentlemen who had thus taken the Start of all others in hurrying into Posts, that there was a Necessity fome People should have it in their Power to destroy certain Prejudices which, by the Art of the late M-r, they apprehended had taken too deep Root; and that this never cou'd be effected unless Gentlemen should accept of such Posts as put them in the Way of removing all such Impressions. This, I own, was at first Sight fo very plaufible, that a great many, even of the best meaning, were brought over by it not to form any Judgment of the Gentlemen who had pull'd forward, till they faw in what

what manner they would act. That no manner of Foundation should exist for pretending that any Party made an ungrateful Return for the Concessions that had been made for displacing the Minister, the Tories of all Ranks went to Court, and fignified in the strongest Terms their Resolution of ferving and supporting the Person and Government of his Majesty. The noble Duke whom I have already mention'd, was very instrumental in effecting this Compliance, and labour'd with such Zeal that he prevail'd with the whole Party to appear at once at Court. But as this Appearance would have been but one ambiguous Testimony of Zeal for supporting the present Establishment, his Grace became their Security by appearing at their Head. This Conduct in a Nobleman fo distinguish'd by his Affection to the Principles of the Revolution, and one who upon those Principles has done so much for the present Royal Family, one should think would have been sufficient to induce others to imitate his excellent Example, and to have look'd upon the Hour when the late Minifter gave up his Power, as the Commencement of a firm Coalition of all Parties. this immediately taken Effect, we might then have taken Occasion to congratulate the Nation

Nation upon the Downfal of ministerial Power and Influence; but except the Removal, which I have already mention'd, in one Office, no other was made. Every little dirty Tool of the late M-r was not only continued, but had Promises made them of Protection and Preferment; nay, it was notorious, that Terms were made for the most infamous amongst them; and even the Prostitutes of the Pen, whose Posts depended on the Gift of the T-y, had Affurances that they should be continued in their Employments. From this Conduct it was evident, that the Change which had been made was not a Change of Measures but of Men. Nay, I will venture to fay the Nation was fo far from reaping any Advantage from it, that it was in a worse Condition than ever, fince they who came in were either the Friends of the late Minister, remov'd from an inferior to a superior Rank of Power, or were fo many Accessions to his Party.

All those Consequences, though since apparent, had hitherto no better Foundation than Conjecture; but an Event happen'd at that Time which pointed them more plainly out. The Merchants of the City of London, who had suffer'd so much from the scandalous Conduct of the War, thought proper to apply

to Parliament for Redress. The Allegations they laid down in their Petition were of fo flagrant and infamous a Nature that in the Days of our Forefathers they wou'd have ferv'd for a Foundation even to Capital Penalties. As there is now publish'd an ample Detail of that Matter, I shall only observe, that these Allegations were made out with a Superabundancy of Proof. Hitherto no Dispositions were making for removing the Authors of all this shameful Misconduct: But this Cafe prov'd fo very flagrant, that there was no protecting them any longer. It was very plain, that the late Misconduct was owing not to willful Neglect only, but downright Ignorance; and that there had been all along at the Head of that B--d a Man who had out-liv'd all his Abilities as a S—-n; while the others were fuch as were totally ignorant of the Business of the Board, or took their Orders from the M-r. It appears likewife, that instead, as it really is, of being an Office which has the most important Department of National Business allotted to itself, and therefore is accountable to the Nation, they look'd upon themselves not as Board of Direction but of Execution. Tho' but the very Seffion before, the Right Honourable Gentleman, who was then at the Head

Head of the Ad—ty, declar'd, That the Minister never intermeddled with the Departments of that Board. Thus they were or were not, an independent Board, just as it cou'd serve the Purpose of their Dictator. While he was to be screen'd, as to his own Person, he took no manner of Concern in the Affairs of the Ad——ty; when his Conduct was to be vindicated in theirs; they were obliged to receive their Orders from others. To prevent the like Practices upon like Excuses from ever afterwards taking Place, it was thought proper that Board should be fill'd up with Persons of different Denominations, but all of them in the same Way of Thinking as to the Service of the Nation. But when such a List was proposed, even after it had been previously stipulated and made the Condition of certain Concessions, it receiv'd Alterations from a Hand which can alter nothing for the worse, and therefore we are bound in Duty to leave that Affair in Silence.

I will upon this Head take the Liberty of making only one Observation, which is, That I dare to say no such Alterations had been made if the great Personage who made them had been previously apprized of what was stipulated in his Name, or honestly informed

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of what would have been most agreeable to the Sense of the Nation.

However, as I have faid before, very strong Refolutions with regard to the Neglect of our Maritime Affairs were come to. But these Resolutions were carried apparently and confessedly against the Sense of the new Mi--ry and their independent Friend, who declar'd that he was not for their being fo ftrongly worded; though, at the same, no Member who heard the Proofs that came out, imagin'd that it was possible to find Words strong enough for an adequate Censure. How different was this Language from what he used on a like Occasion under the late Administration, when his own Resolutions, in the Year 1739, were proposed after a like Examination of Evidence

But what were the Consequences of the Resolutions that were agreed to? Do they stand upon their V—s for any other purpose but as so many Monuments to shew that there was a Time when it was proved, to the Conviction of every Man who heard it, that the Honour, the Interest, and Trade of this Nation were basely and scandalously given up to an impotent Enemy in Time of War; her Sailors and Merchants ignominiously chain'd within loathsome Dungeons, or forc'd

If the Trade of the Nation was willfully neglected, why was not that Neglect punished? If it was not punish'd, what Security can the Nation have against the like Mismanagements for the future? But how will it found to future Ages, when it shall appear, that \* Infults were added to Injuries; Infults from one of those whose Duty and Post oblig'd him to have been the Protector of our Trade; Infults from one of our own Officers, one of his Majesty's Servants. The adding Insults to Injuries was, I remember, taken notice of fome Years ago with a becoming Warmth in a Speech made by a Right Honourable Gentleman to his Majesty at the End of a Sesfion of Parliament, as the most aggravating Circumstance that could induce his Majesty to enter into a War abroad; yet we see that very Conduct repeated, and repeated with Impunity at home.

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<sup>\*</sup> It is your own War, and you must take it for your Pains. (See Mr. GLOVER'S Speech, p. 52.)

Leaving this Head, I proceed to another, which amounts to a Demonstration of what I propose to prove, viz. that the Causes of Opposition still exist, which is the great and affected Care which the Gentleman who fucceeded the late M --- r in one of his Posts took, that no Petitions upon controverted El—ns should be heard after a certain Day. This was expressly telling the World, "Iam " afraid that the P---t may become " too independent; I am afraid that a Spirit " may prevail in the House which may pre-" vent my Screening Scheme, and therefore " I am resolv'd not to have any more Elec-" tions determin'd in favour of the Country " Interest" I say, the Zeal by which the honourable Gentleman Inpported his Motion was a plain Proof that this was the Language of his Heart, and the Consternation into which this Motion threw one Part of the House, join'd to the visible Triumph of others who were in the Secret, were plain Ind'entions that Promises had been made, that Things should not proceed beyond certain stipulated Bounds.

I know it was faid by the Right Honourable Gentleman and his Friends upon this Occasion, that it had been always customary not to admit of any such Petitions after a certain

Time;

Time; but I should be glad to know why that Time was anticipated this Year? Why was it not fuffer'd to elapse? Why in such a Hurry? Besides, was no Regard to be paid to the Crisis, none to the Circumstances of the Conjuncture, none to the doubtful Situation of Parties, which gave the Friends of the late M-r fo fair an Opprtunity of fcreening him? Could the Constitution, could the Liberties of the People, or even the Forms of the House, have suffer'd had that Refolution not been made? Might they not all of them have been endanger'd by making it, had not certain favourable Conjunctures, which the new Ministry did not foresee, happen'd?

The Refusal of Papers was, by the Oppofition to the late M——r, always accounted one of the greatest Hardships they laboured under, since it was from them alone that any positive Evidence could be brought of his being the Author of all the Mismanagements which were so frequent in our Negotiations with Foreign Courts, and in the Conduct of the War. The melancholly Situation of the House of Austria, together with the visible Aversion which a certain German Prince, nearly allied by Blood to his Majesty, had for entering into any manner of Terms with us for checking the Power of France, were strong Reasons for presuming, that some very disagreeable Step had been taken in prejudice of that Prince. The Plan for a P---on of his Territories, which was wickedly conceal'd, and foolishly discover'd by the late M----r, had not yet taken Air; nor was it yet known, that we had by our ridiculous Conduct in that Affair forfeited much of our Credit with another Northern P---te, on whom a great deal at present depends. However, enough was known to be fufficient Grounds for believing that there was fomething rotten in the State.-A Motion for Papers was agreed to, after a long Debate, and a Defeat which the Country Party met with upon a Motion for an Enquiry into the Conduct of the M---r. By the Party of the M-r not daring to divide upon the last Motion, after they had just carried the former by a Majority of but three, and when some Gentlemen in the Minority were gone off, it was very evident, that when the Question was upon the Papers of the M---r, a Point was made and carried; but when it related to a personal Application, which might put his Master under Inconveniences with regard to his Answer, the Question was dropt.

This was a glaring Instance of the M—r's Partiality in favour of himself; and Disrespect to his Master; for when the Answer in Consequence of that Address was return'd, it appear'd to be such as in some Periods of our History would have been far from satisfying a distrustful, dissident, Jealous, enquiring H—e of C——ns.

However, not to push this tender Point too far, I will only sum up a few general Reslections and such as are evident to every Man of Common Sense, and leave you to apply them in the best manner you can to the Question in hand.

Motions for Papers, as I have already obferv'd, were the favourite Topics in the late Opposition. Now supposing that each Motion which the Nation and the Minority so loudly complain'd for being rejected had been agreed to by the H fe, but rendered inessectual from another Quarter; What must have been the Consequence? To be sure, Addresses to know by whose Advice such Answers were return'd. For the Minority always laid it down as a Constitutional Maxim, that all Answers from the C—n were the Answers of the M—r. That all the Measures of the C—n were the Measures of the M—r, and that all

the Secrets of the C---n were the Secrets of the M-r. In consequence of these notorious and a thousand times repeated Principles, was it not evident that all Excus s for baffling a P---ry Address, thro' whatever Medium they proceed are Excuses of the M-r, and ought to be regarded as fuch? If these Excuses are founded upon the Prejudice which such a Compliance may do to the Public, is not the P-t better Judge of that than a M-r. If upon its Inconfishency with the Confidence repos'd in the Government by other Princes, is not a Secret Committee of a H——se of C——s as much to be trusted with any Secrets of that Kind as any M-r or Number of M-rs, or any other Body of Men, perhaps Clerks of Offices, Underlings, &c. who are employ'd to examine the Fitness of complying with such an Address, and which they can do no otherwise than by inspecting the very Papers which are deny'd to the Great Council of the Nation?

Such are the Arguments that have been again and again repeated by the Minority; but how did some Gentlemen of that Minority act in this Case when they came to be the Majority? They were far from shewing the least Dissatisfaction at this Conduct of the M——r's. They very respectfully put up with

with an Answer after they were in, against which they wou'd have bellow'd had they been still out. Thus the Conduct of the New M-ry towards the Nation was exactly the same as that of the old M---r towards his Master. They were both of them very zealous while the Case was their own; and carry'd their Points; but the latter had no fooner an Opportunity of faving himself by exposing his Master, than he left him in the Lurch, and the former no fooner had got themselves serv'd by disporting the M-r, than they laugh'd at the Nation. Every Question that was aim'd personally at the M-r was duly attended to and generally carried; but when the Question came to be the Service of the Nation at the hazard at their own Posts, they either directly oppos'd every fingle Point, or threw fuch cold Water on it, that it was not attended, or practis'd, to have it carried against themselves.

This is the fingle Confideration upon which I found all I have to fay upon this Subject. I can have no personal Objection to any of the Gentlemen employ'd upon the late Change of the M-—y; so far from it, that the Pleasure I had in the Removal of the late M——r was greatly enhanc'd by the Regard and high Opinion I had long entertain'd of their Per-

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fons; nay, it is owing to themselves that I now oppose them, for I drew every Principle upon which I oppose them, from their own Practices, Speeches and Professions.

But it is with a melancholy Concern, that I will venture to affirm to you and the World, in no fingle Instance have they acted up to the Character they personated; that in every respect they have given up those constitutional Securities themselves so long struggled for, and that I challenge the strongest of their Admirers, and the most Ingenious of all their Advocates, to point out any one Advantage the Nation has got by the Change, more than the mere Reputation she recover'd Abroad by the Removal of a Man who was personally obnoxious to all our Friends and Allies.

Tho' it would look like Affectation to go about to prove this, yet I will mention one or two Instances, and leave them to your and the public Judgment. When all the Demands of the People are summ'd up on the one hand, and the Prerogative of the Crown set forth in its sull force on the other, the Difference betwixt both lies in a good Place Bill. The People think it their Happiness that they are govern'd by Parliaments, but

their Unhappiness is that those Parliaments may be subject to corrupt Influence. They think it their Duty always to obey their Prnce; but their Privilege sometimes to oppose his M--r. An uncorrupted Representation of the Nation can keep Parliaments to their Duty, and strengthen the legal Prerogative of the Prince, by shaking the unconstitutional Influence of his Minister; but all this can be effected no other Way than by a falutary comprehensive Place-bill. The Nation has never yet been able to obtain this Security, for what Reasons is too well known for me to mention here. Some Atempts of that kind however were made within the Period I am now describing, but, as usual, without Success. I know it will be said here, by certain Gentlemen and their Friends, that the Success it met with in one House was in great measure owing to their Endeavours. But in Answer to this, give me leave to put a few short Queries.

In the first Place, can they pretend any Man, of the least Experience in public Affairs, ever imagin'd that such a Bill would take Place by any other means, than by making it the Equivalent of somewhat else which is as valuable to the Administration as this Security is to the People. Give me leave to

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ask in the second Place, Who parted with the only means to which there could be the least reasonable Prospect of obtaining this Security? Who moved, feconded, speech'd and voted for near seven Millions of Money, without the Nations being able to obtain one single Article of those numerous Claims of Rights, for the obtaining of which certain Gentlemen had so long pretended to act? Who vould for near seventy thousand Landforces being enter'd into the Pay of Great Britain, without the People being in one fingle Instance more secure that such a Force might not be employ'd to bad Purposes, than they. were in the Time of the late M-y, and before any farther Declaration of War was made? Who voted against that Measure which alone could render the Enquiry of the C-tee fuccessful, after the Indemnification-Bill was thrown out? but of that more hereafter.

The Facts upon which those Queries are grounded, will easily lead you to conclude, either that the Gentlemen of the New M—y never were fincere in their Endeavours for obtaining Security or Satisfaction to the Nation; or that they were the most wrong-headed Set of Men in the World, by imagining it possible to procure either, without their making the obtaining them the Condition of their granting

granting somewhat else-I shall not say what. -But to proceed from negative to positive Proofs. Even after the Shadow of a Bill was obtain'd for regulating the Number of Place-men in P-t, to whom was it owing that this Bill was not rendered more effectual? Was it not a Mockery upon the Nation to presume that a Bill, to take Place feven Years after it pass'd, could be any Security to the People? An Ad ---- on who ventures to vote for fuch a Bill does not venture the third part fo much as the Fellow, who undertook to a King, upon pain of Death, to teach an Ass to play upon a Fiddle, provided he had a handsome Consideration in the mean time. When his Friends came to ask him how he could undertake such an Impossibility? Why, says the Fellow, You are all Fools, I have made a good Bargain, for its three to one in seven Years time, but that either the Ass, or the King, or I shall be dead. Such a Bill therefore could be rendered ferviceable to the Nation, only by giving it an immediate Comencement, or at least by making it take Place upon every Vacancy of a Seat in the present P—-—t is claim'd by a Candidate that comes under the Limitation of fuch a Bill.

But let me ask again, who was the first Man that stood up to oppose this reasonable, this unexceptionable Motion? Was it not the very Person who was the first that step'd in to seize the Spoil of the late M——r? The very Person, who, before he was a Mi——r himself, was generally the Hound who open'd the Cry in pursuit of these or the like Measures?

The Repeal of the Septennial Act was another Favourite of the Nation. I will not enter into the Dispute whether the Juncture when this Motion was made was a proper Time, or not, for fuch a Repeal. It is sufficient to take notice, that the Nation was unanimously and strongly for it; and by that very Maxim of the late Opposition, this fingle Confideration ought to have determin'd every Gentleman who form'd that Opposition to have espoused it. By their opposing it they have treated that, and all other Measures, as Workmen do the Scaffolding of a Building; they have made use of it to rife to the Pinacle of Power, and having got there, they have knock'd the Scaffolding down as useless and inconvenient.

The next Instance I shall bring of the Conformity of Principles in those Gentlemen, when in and when out, is that Vote which pass'd

pass'd the very next Day after the Repeal of the Septennial Act miscarried, by which the G -t got five hundred thousand Pounds into their own Hands. When the Message came for this Money, I believe there was not a Man in the House, in the true Interest of his Country, who did not imagine that the Service to which this Money was applicable should be specified, and that it should be entirely dedicated for the immediate Support of the Queen of Hungary, without a Possibility for any vague Construction of Words of its being apply'd to Purposes and Services entirely foreign to the Interest of Great Britain. If the Words of the Resolution, by which this Money was primarily granted, can be wrested to such a Sense, I will leave it to your Judgment to conclude how confistent this Measure is with that Jealousy of Power which those loud Acclamations, in favour of Public Frugality, which but a few Weeks before distinguish'd our present M--rs as Patriots. I know it has been faid, there was an absolute Necessity of supporting the Queen of Hungary without Delay: I admit there was; but this very Necessity aggravates the Conduct of those who advised the drawing up a Message in Terms which put her Friends here under the Dilemma of either

either frustrating the Intention of granting her an immediate Support, or granting it in a Manner as to hazard its being rendered ineffectual for the Purpose design'd.

It is downright Impudence to pretend, that the Liberty which this Motion left to the M--rs in the Application of this Money, had any Influence in the Conduct of a certain Potentate, who has fince taken a wife and necessary Step in favour of that Princefs. This agreeable Turn of Affairs must have been effected, I will not say, tho' we had given no Support to the Queen of Hungary, but tho' we had not had a Minister, or so much as a Messenger, at any Court in Europe when that favourable Event happen'd. For it was long enough after this Motion pass'd that this Potentate redoubled his Efforts to distress the Queen of Hungary, by concerting a new and more vigorous Plan of Operations, which terminated in a bloody Battle betwixt their Forces. It was owing to this Battle that his Eyes were at last opened. He saw his own Army ruin'd, his Progress impracticable, his Retreat difficult, his Enemies powerful, and his Allies infincere. He reflected upon the Consequence of the Court of Russia declaring in favour of the House of Austria, the advantageous Propofitions 2

fitions of the Court of Vienna, and the poor destitute Condition of the Prince whom he had voted to be Head of the Empire. When all those Considerations were before his Eyes, what Necessity can we imagine there cou'd be for either our Gold or our Eloquence? Had he not a Superabundancy of Motives besides to determine him to make Peace with the Queen of Hungary; and did he listen to any one Suggestion that we offer'd him while it was in his Power to make the least Head against the Court of Vienna? Did he not treat our Intercession with Indifference, nay, with a Contempt, which nothing but the perfevering Forbearance of a certain Court would have put up, and which the natural Interests of Great Britain feem'd to render an Object of immediate Resentment? In short, the true State of that Event is this: The Queen of Hungary's Forces and Generals did Wonders; the French never were in earnest to aggrandize the King of Prussia; he found this out, by dear-bought Experience, and refolved in Self-defence to give them the Slip. So that upon the whole, if any Part of the Money of Great Britain went towards making up this Peace, it was a needless and ridiculous Expence.

G I fhall

I shall make no other Remark upon the four thousand Men, who were smuggled upon us from Ireland, than to observe, that it was done at a Time when we could have spared the Number of Forces which we intend now to fend to Flanders, and yet might have kept for the Defence of the Nation at home more than twice the Number that was in the Nation during the hottest Time of the late War. There is, however, one Piece of .Management extreamly unaccountable, with regard to the Manner of raising the new Levies; the most of which, were by raising new Corps: I cannot better illustrate this than by giving an Extract from a Protest of the greatest Authority, enter'd February 5, 1740. Because it has been undeniably proved, that this Method of Augmentation by new Corps, is, by one third, more expensive than that of adding private Men to Companies. The Expence of raifing those 5705 Men amounted to 116322 l. 14s. 2d. " Whereas 5785 raised by additional Men to Companies, with a fecond Lieutenant to each Company, would have amounted to but 86902 l. 15 s. which would be only a present Saving of 29329 l. but a future Saving of 10134 l. per Annum upon the 11 Half-pay of the Officers of those seven Re-" giments,

siments, the few Officers taken out of the " Half-pay only excepted. And we think, " that at a Time when the public Expence " is so very considerable, the strictest Oeconomy is requifite, the better to enable a 6.0 burthen'd and indebted Nation to continue those Expences that may be more neces-56 fary to be borne than eafy to be fupply'd: And as to the Advantage of the Service, "the Facts plainly proved in the Debate, " together with the Practice of most other " Nations in Europe, and in particular of " his Majesty's Electoral Dominions, convinces us, That if this Augmentation was " made by additional Men to Companies, " with a proper Increase of Serjeants and " Corporals, the military Service, at least, for " which alone it was intended, would be " better carried on than by the Methods " now purfued."

As these Arguments never were attempted to be answer'd, there can be no Shadow of Reason for augmenting our Army, even suppoling there was Occasion for it, by new Corps, excepting the very Reason which render'd this Method so very agreeable to the late M-r; I mean the great Parliamentary Influence, which a Number of new Officers may create. As it was excellently observed by a noble Duke, "This is an Influence more dangerous to the Nation than the Power and Terror which a Standing-Army itself carries along with it." I am well perfuaded, that had our Patriots, who have fince come into play, worn their Patriotisms any other ways than as a Cloak which they were to drop as foon as the Sunshine of a Court should beat upon them, they must have seen and observ'd the Truth of this Maxim. It would be in vain to urge, that they were over-ruled. No Minister, or Servant of the C---n, can be over-ruled; because if any thing is done contrary to what appears to him for the Interest of the Nation, he may cease to be a Minister, or to act in the immedi te Service of the C-n; and the glorious Precedent that was fet them by the noble D\_\_\_\_, I have already mention'd, would have prevail'd with any Set of Men who were fincere in their Professions to have followed his Example.

I now come to a Measure upon which a great deal is thought to have depended; but I shall take the Freedom to consider it in a different Light from what it has, perhaps, hitherto appear'd in, to the Public. The Exgestations of the Nation, that full and ample

Satisfaction

Satisfaction would be made to the People for the heavy Oppressions they had so long and and fo unavailingly complain'd of, were strong and universal. The Cities of London and Westminster began to signify theirs by very warm Remonstrances, presented to their Representatives immediately upon the Change of the Ministry, and their Example was followed by all the principal Bodies in the Nation. There was at that time a clear Majority of Members in the House of Commons against the late M—r; so that it was in their Power to have proceeded against him in what Manner they had a Mind. It was agreed on all hands, that there was but two Methods of Proceedure; the first, by way of Committee for enquiring into the Measures of the Administration; the second, by proceeding upon what appear'd upon the Face of their own Votes and Journals, and was confiftent with the Knowledge and Memory of almost every Man in the House.

I own I was very fingular in my Opinion by thinking the latter the furest, the quickest, and the fairest; but, the former was carried as the most proper Method. It was carried by the Persuasion, and at the earnest Desire of the Gentlemen who have since come into the Ad———n, and who at that Time had

the Secret of winning that Confidence with their own Party which the latter have found fince, but too good Reason to repent of.

As I faid that I was a little fingular in my Opinion upon this Subject, I think myself obliged to give you my Reasons. In the third Place, it was notorious that the M-r, notwithstanding his Removal from his Posts, thought himself as much possess'd of Power as ever; this appear'd from feveral Instances of an unparalel'd Insolence in exercifing it. These are too recent to be mention'd here, and the Opportunity that was given him, even after he found it was imposfible to retain his Influence in one Place, of stifling all the Evidences of his Guilt in another, amounted almost to a Proof that it would be next to impossible to succeed in an Enquiry, which was to draw its principal Evidence from those Offices, where he preceeded and dictated, even after an Enquiry of some kind or other appear'd inevitable.

Secondly, the Disposal of the public Money even to unwarrantable Purposes, by the proper Officers, and upon Warrants which he always knew to obtain, could not be Ground for such a Charge as the Nation expected and requir'd, unless those unwarrantable Purposes could be clearly prov'd. Because the civil

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List Money being granted without Account, it has never been understood that the Parliament conceiv'd, they had any right to enquire into the Disposal of it, unless an Application was made for Deficiencies. Therefore it is plain that unless a Committee of Secrecy could prove the Purposes to which the Money of the Civil List was apply'd, to be subversive of the Constitution, or treasonable in themfelyes, there would be great Difficulty in founding any Impeachment against a Minister, meerly because so much Money was fpent without Account. But how was fuch Proof to be come at? - Only from those who were privy to the Practices .- But this very Privity makes them criminal. Why then you must admit them as Evidences and indemnify them .- But this can be done only by Act of P-t; and is there any Man at this Time of Day fo little remov'd from an Ideot, as to imagine that fuch an Act will pass? —But if it does not, there must be an End of all Enquiries.-With all our Hearts.

From this short View of the Matter it is plain that a Committee of Enquiry was an exceeding precarious Way of founding a Profecution of any kind; and the Event has fully justify'd this Opinion. For the have

have found Matter enough to convince any reasonable Man that great Abuses have been committed in the Revenue, yet it would be exceedingly difficult, upon the Face of any Report yet made, to form a legal Impeachment even for Misdeameanours. Hearsay Evidence, which appears to be the only Evidence with regard to the Attempts to influence E-ns, and that but in one Instance, would set a dangerous Precedent were it to be gone upon. It would be highly unreasonable to abridge his Majesty of the Power of extending his Charity to those who are represented Objects of it, under whatever Circumstances they may be. It appears from the Case of Lever that he was represented to the Gentlemen who procured him the 1500 l. from the Threasury as a proper Object of Compassion, nor is that Affair at all brought Home to the Earl of O - d.

As to the Business of the Exchange in paying the Troops, it is a commercial Affair, upon which a great many Disputes may arise. It depends greatly upon the Rate of Exchange at that Time, betwixt Jamaica and London; and the probability of its rising or falling. The worst therefore that can be made of the whole of that Story is, that it was a low dirty Jobb, and might have done very well to have

made out an accummulative Charge of Guilt; but neither can be laid, as a Foundation for that Satisfaction which an injured People fo

loudly demands.

So that upon the whole, the establishing the Enquiring-Committee being subjected to surmountable Dissipation to the Nation. It is therefore evident, that had the Leaders of the Party been in earnest to procure Justice to the People, it had been easy for them to sall upon a more quick and decisive Niethod. There was a recent Fact upon their own Votes; a Fact for which the Nation is suffering for at this Day; a Fact for which the Honour,

Honour, the Commerce, and the Property of Great Britain was destroy'd in one Day; a Fact for which the Right Honourable Gentleman, whose Conduct they were enquiring into, render'd himfelf answerable to P---t, again and again, in Presence of the Commons of Great Britain: I mean the Convention. Had they gone upon this Measure, a strong and well-grounded Charge might have been form'd, supported by the best Evidence in the World, viz. \* the Words of Treaties and the + Declarations of P----t. This had been an Enquiry worthy the Dignity of that august Body, and would have taken up a very short Time in discussing. They had enough upon the Face of their own Votes to have ferved as Evidence; and they had a Precedent in the Conduct of the Right Honourable Person himself for impeaching a M-r of High Treason for

a Treaty

<sup>\*</sup> See the Treaty betwixt Spain and Great Britain in 1667, and that of 1670. See likewife two Pamphlets publish'd 1739, entitled, Considerations upon the present State of our Affairs, and Farther Considerations upon the same.

<sup>†</sup> See the Address of the House of Peers, May 2d, 1738, near eight Months before the Ratification of the Convention with Spain, which expressly gives up the Rights there laid down as CLEARLY and UNDOUBT-EDLY belonging to the Subjects of the Crown of GREAT BRITAIN.

a Treaty even after it had receiv'd a much fuller and more express Approbation from both Houses of Parliament than the Convention had ever done.

Thus, Sir, I have given you my Thoughts as to the Conduct of both Parties fince the Changes of the M-ry. It would be neediess to enter into other Facts, tho' there is a very fair Field open for doing it. Should this Letter meet with Approbation from You and the Public, I shall beg leave to trouble you both with a Second on the same Subject. In the mean time, the late Promotions which have happen'd are the best and fullest Reasons can be given for the Conduct I have been examining. I should be extreamly glad of an Opportunity, from the Behaviour of those Gentlemen who have now arrived at the Top of their Ambition, to retract any Part of the Infinuations in this Letter; what I have advanced is all upon undeniable Facts, which any Man with the same Attention to them might have represented in much stronger and fuller Terms than I am capable of doing. The Sum of the whole is; If you are of Opinion, that the Nation has made that noble Opposition to the Current of Corruption which it has done these twenty Years past, for no other End than that a few Men might step into Posts and

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Power,

Power, you will be in the right to fail with the Tide; but if this Struggle was made in order to repair those Oversights which have been made at the different Periods of our Constitution, to settle those Rights of the Subject which are not rightly understood, to retrieve those that have been neglected, to acquire those to which they are entitled by Nature, and to fecure fuch as are too liable to Perversion and Abuse: I say, if you are of Opinion that these were the Ends of the mighty Struggle made by the Nation, you will find no manner of Reason for thinking that any of them have hitherto been obtain'd. When the End is not obtain'd the Means ought to continue, which confift in a fleady and determined Opposition.

FINIS







